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Media Advisory

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Statement from Durham City Manager Tom Bonfield Regarding Police Chief Retirement

After careful consideration, I have determined that a change in leadership is necessary at this time for the City of Durham and the Durham Police Department to continue to meet the law enforcement expectations and needs of the community.

Yesterday, Police Chief Jose Lopez, Sr. and I reached an agreement for his separation from the City of Durham, resulting in his decision to retire effective December 31, 2015.

I appreciate Chief Lopez's eight years of service to the city during some very challenging times for the Durham Police Department and for law enforcement across the country.

In the coming weeks, the City will begin preparations for a national search for a new Chief for the Durham Police Department and further announcements regarding the timeline and process will be provided as it is available.

This decision in no way should be considered a reflection on the outstanding men and women of the Durham Police Department who are committed to serving and protecting the residents of Durham.

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Chief Lopez's memo announcing his retirement to police department staff is available at <http://durhamnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6690>.